

# Public Water Systems Drinking Water Awards – 2002

In The Main • Summer 2002

The town of Mansfield hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Drinking Water Day on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Thirty-one public water systems (PWS) received awards for their outstanding work in providing consumers with high quality drinking water. These awards are co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Massachusetts Water Works Association, the Northeast Rural Water Association, and the Northeast Rural Community Assistance Program of RHI, Inc.

The organizations are all members of the Massachusetts Drinking Water Education Partnership (MADWEP), which organizes and promotes the awards program and drinking water education. Commissioner Lauren Liss congratulated the winners for their hard work in protecting and conserving our valuable water resources across the state. We salute all the PWS's that received awards for their extraordinary efforts in providing the public with the best water in the country. Winners noted below:

## Small community systems

- Wilkinsonville Water District, Sutton
- Cotuit Water Department
- Oak Bluffs Water District
- Douglas Water Department
- Tisbury Water Works

## Consecutive systems

- Boston Water and Sewer Commission
- Wilbraham Water Department
- Marblehead Water Department

## Medium & large community systems

- Centerville Osterville Marston Mills Water Department
- Dennis Water District
- Easton Water Division
- Sharon Water Department
- Westford Water Department
- Foxborough Water Department
- Avon Water Department
- Ipswich Water Department
- Mansfield Water Department
- Chatham Water Department
- Orange Water Department

- Swansea Water District
- Harwich Water Department
- Milford Water Company
- Orleans Water Department
- Holliston Water Department
- Chelmsford Water District
- Lynn Water & Sewer Commission
- Reading Water Department
- Seekonk Water District

## Best nontransient-non community system

- Genzyme Transgenics Corporation, Charlton

## Source protection awards

- Auburn Water District
- Harwich Water Department
- Lanesborough Fire and Water District
- Town of Paxton

## Environmental educator award

- Ron Stelling, DEP, BRP, NERO

## Best overall system

Westford received the best overall award for the highest two-year score. They do all the right things to keep their water safe and a lot more. Business Manager Robin Fullford, an advocate for outreach, works diligently at trying new ideas. To encourage water conservation this year, she sent consumers a graph of their water use over a two year period! They have two Web sites on water and a xeriscape garden to get people thinking about their water use. Staff member Kristin Davis stenciled storm-drains with local girl scouts and explained the importance of limiting pollutants that enter drains. Visit Westford's Web site: [westford.mec.edu](http://westford.mec.edu) or [westford.com](http://westford.com) to see

what else they've done.

### Most improved system

Dennis Water District received the most improved system award for its ongoing efforts during the last year. The District acquired approximately 28 acres for watershed and wellhead protection thereby preventing a land subdivision. Dennis now has over 1000 acres for wellhead protection and uses the health board to implement regulations controlling land uses and emergency response. The District also implemented a fully funded household hazardous waste collection day. According to Mike Quink at DEP's Lakeville office, Dennis is an outstanding system and I knew they would come out on top this year.